

AGERATINA GONZALEZORUM (ASTERACEAE-EUPATORIEAE),
A NEW SPECIES FROM DURANGO MEXICO

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Recent collections from northwestern Mexico by S. and M. Gonzalez of the Herbario del Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigacion para El Desarrollo Integral de La Comunidad Rural (CIIDIR), Unidad Durango has revealed the following novelty:

AGERATINA GONZALEZORUM B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

Ageratina thrysiflora accedens sed foliis crassis cordatis amplexicaulibus, pubescentiis dense hirsutis, capitulis amplioribus.

Stout, strict, perennial herbs ca 2 m high. Stems 3-8 mm thick, unbranched, terete, striate, densely white hirsute throughout. Leaves numerous, overlapping, alternate throughout, sessile, cordate-clasping, 2.5-3.5 cm long, 2-3 cm wide, pubescent on both surfaces, markedly reticulate-veined and glandular-punctate beneath, the margins crenulate, the apices mostly obtuse. Heads numerous, arranged in flat-topped, terminal cymules, ca 6 cm high and 12 cm across. Involucre campanulate, 4.5-6.0 mm long; bracts 2-3 seriate, subequal, lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, softly puberulent and atomiferous-glandular throughout, not at all scarious. Receptacle plane, glabrous. Florets 30-40; corollas white, ca 4.5 mm long, glabrous, narrowly funnelform, markedly brown-atomiferous-glandular throughout, the lobes acute, ca 1.5 mm long, ca 0.75 mm wide. Styler appendages narrow, markedly hispidulous. Achenes brown, ca 2.5 mm long, both hispid and atomiferous-glandular; pappus of about 30 white, ciliate, bristles, 3.5-4.0 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. DURANGO: Mpio. de El Mezquital, 19 km de Los Charcos, por el camino a sta. Ma. Ocotan, 2400 m, "bosque de Pinus lumholtzii con Quercus sp.", 4 Oct 1983, S. y M. Gonzalez 2558 (holotype TEX; isotypes to be distributed by the collectors).

A truly distinctive species, what with its numerous alternate sessile cordate-clasping leaves and stiffly erect unbranched densely hirsute stems. The species clearly belongs to the subgenus Neogreenella, sensu King and Robinson, where it has no close relatives. On the basis of its herbaceous habit, corolla shape, and leaf arrangement, it is perhaps closest to Ageratina thrysiflora (Greene) K. & R.

It is a pleasure to name this remarkable species for the remarkable Gonzalez family, the siblings of which have collected several novelties from the more poorly collected regions of Durango (e.g. Senecio gonzalezae B. L. Turner).